

SENTRI to work, we must provide them with the tools and resources they need to succeed. This is why I am re-introducing the Secure and Fast Entry at the Border Act or SAFE Border Act.

The SAFE Border Act recognizes the contribution of SENTRI to border security and the agents who administer the program. My bill ensures the continuity of SENTRI as the Immigration and Naturalization Service and Customs Department transition into the Department of Homeland Security, and reinforces recent agency action by permanently extending the SENTRI renewal period from 1 to 2 years—enabling border agents to process new applicants and reduce the current enrollment wait. SAFE Border also recommends the appointment of dedicated SENTRI staff to expedite application processing, encourages the creation of a dedicated commuter lane for prescreened, low-risk pedestrian crossers, and promotes the integration of technology at SENTRI sites for increased access at participating ports of entry.

Our agents at the border shoulder an enormous responsibility every day. I believe we owe them the appropriate resources and support they need to carry out their duties. The SAFE Border Act, as a result, increases security by enabling more people to be prescreened and allowing border agents to focus more attention on other border crossers.

Our nation's economic and overall security is heavily linked to smooth and secure border crossings. The SAFE Border Act provides a way for trusted travelers to cross the border securely and quickly.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to act quickly in passing the SAFE Border Act into law.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WALLACE
CONERLY

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to my home state of Mississippi are exceptional.

Dr. A. Wallace Conerly has devoted his career to public service. A native of Tylertown, Mississippi, Dr. Conerly graduated from Millsaps College in 1957, and went on to receive his M.D. from Tulane University in 1960. He served six years in the United States Air Force until his honorable discharge with the rank of Major. Since 1973, Wally has dedicated his time to the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

He held the title of Assistant Vice Chancellor for 13 years until obtaining the title of Chief Executive Officer in 1994. As the CEO of the state's only academic health sciences center, he leads an institution of 7200 employees with an annual budget of more than \$610,000,000.

Dr. Conerly has directed a \$335 million building program, the largest in the history of higher education in Mississippi, including a new children's hospital, a new women and infant's hospital, a new 256 bed adult hospital and a critical care hospital, along with a host of new facilities for the School of Nursing, the

School of Health Related Professions and the Medical Center complex.

He created a campus-wide Office of Research in 1998 to further enhance the Medical Center's research mission. Since that time, grant and contracts awarded to the Medical Center have more than tripled—from approximately \$12 million to more than \$40 Million annually. He spearheaded the Medical Center's efforts to get national Heart, Lung and Blood Institute funding for the Jackson Heart Study, the project that will follow cardiovascular risk factors in African-Americans for decades.

Wally Conerly has worked hard to make the Medical Center a more diverse environment. He has expanded the institution's efforts to recruit and retain minority students. He was successful in securing funding for 12 full scholarships designated for African-American students in the School of Medicine. The scholarships, worth approximately \$25,000 annually to the student, also have helped keep these promising young students in Mississippi—where they are now more likely to practice. Wally also has worked to increase the Medical Center's number of minority employees at the professional level through aggressive recruitment efforts. Currently, 35 percent of UMC's employees in that category are minorities; approximately 45 percent of the Medical Center's total work force is minority. In 2001, Minority Access, Inc. recognized the Medical Center as a "National Role Model Institution" for these achievements. Dr. Conerly has enriched the lives of Mississippians and enhanced the national prominence of the Medical Center resulting in better health care for our citizens.

In August 2002, Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson appointed Dr. Conerly to a four-year term on the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine. He is the first Mississippi an to serve on the prestigious body. Dr. Conerly has served on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross, Mississippi Chapter and the Capital Area United Way. He is past president of the Rotary Club of Jackson and past chairman of the Board of Governors of the University Club. He is on the boards of the Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, the Jackson Medical Education District, the Community Bank and it's a member of the Community Advisory Council of the Junior League of Jackson. In 2001, the Mississippi Division of the Multiple Sclerosis Society honored Dr. Conerly with the Hope Award. He also received Millsaps College's "Alumnus of the Year" award in 2002, and he and his wife Frances Bryan Conerly were recognized as the 2002 People of Vision by Preserve Sight Mississippi. Wally and Frances are the proud parents of two sons, Al and Charlie.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend this extraordinary man and my dear friend for his superior service and thank him for his strong commitment to helping the citizens of Mississippi.

IN HONOR OF LENNIE ROBERTS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and a most distin-

guished Californian, Lenore (Lennie) Roberts, as she is inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Ms. Roberts has been named to the Hall of Fame for her success in protecting "much of the open space that makes the San Francisco Peninsula a uniquely beautiful place to live and work."

I founded the Women's Hall of Fame in 1984 to honor women who have made major contributions to our community and our country. Lennie Roberts is the personification of those we honor; she is intelligent, fair, effective, trusted, and articulate. The Peninsula would not be the place it is today without Lennie and her extraordinary work.

Lennie Roberts has a unique vision which extends beyond the limits of San Mateo County. In addition to her work with the Committee for Green Foothills, she serves as a member of the Yosemite Association Board of Trustees and helped form the Yosemite Fund Council of Directors, and is a member of the Citizens Advisory Commission for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Among Lennie Roberts' many achievements were the passage of Measure A which protects San Mateo County's rural coastal area from urban sprawl and her successful fight to prevent a giant freeway from being built on the coastside.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and good woman. Lennie Roberts is one of the most exceptional, effective and respected leaders in our community and through her commitment and professionalism, she has made our communities and our country a better place for all.

TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
OF NORWOOD-REDVALE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to recognize the men and women of the Norwood-Redvale Volunteer Fire Department of Norwood, Colorado. Their heroic efforts are responsible for saving the lives and homes of many in my state, and it is my honor to pay tribute to their efforts today.

On the night of December 29, 2002, there was a fire in a home south of Norwood. Although the home is occupied, there was no one present when the blaze started. The quick actions of the Norwood-Redvale Volunteer Fire Department saved the house, which sustained only minimal smoke damage. Almost the entire fire department responded, including four engines and the ambulance crew, adding up to more than fifteen VFD members on the scene who spent more than three long hours battling the flames.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Norwood-Redvale Volunteer Fire Department before this body of Congress and this nation. Their selfless and capable service is a credit to themselves and their families, and their dedication to community is a great asset to their neighbors and countrymen. I personally thank them for their efforts.

URGING PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN NORTH KOREA AT 59TH SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 109.

North Korea has been in the news lately for a number of reasons. In recent months, it has expelled U.N. monitors, withdrawn from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and restarted a nuclear reactor.

In addition, North Korea may have the worst human-rights record in Asia. The regime prohibits freedom of speech, religion, the press, assembly, association, citizens' movements and workers' rights. There are an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 political prisoners in work camps. Accounts by refugees and defectors indicate that inmates are subject to forced labor, beatings, torture and executions.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights convened in Geneva this week and is scheduled to be in session until April 25th. This year one of its most challenging issues will be to determine whether to hold North Korea accountable for its poor human rights records.

I strongly support H. Res. 109, which urges the Commission to pass a resolution addressing human rights abuses in North Korea, and calls on the government of North Korea to respect and protect the human rights of its citizens. If passed by the Commission, it would be a critical first step by member states of the United Nations in demonstrating a multi-national commitment to human rights.

In 1981, North Korea ratified two treaties, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. By ratifying these treaties, North Korea officially affirmed its commitment to internationally recognized human rights and standards. Although no single diplomatic initiative can begin to resolve North Korea's human rights abuses, this Resolution would be an important first step in bringing this issue to the world's attention.

In closing, I would like to remind my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, that on February 11, 2002, we passed, by an overwhelming vote of 402 to 6, a Resolution condemning the selection of Libya to chair the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Libya has failed to demonstrate that it does not support international terrorism. It has also failed to demonstrate that it has abandoned its quest for weapons of mass destruction. To reward these failures with an important and prestigious appointment makes a mockery of what this Commission stands for.

That being said, if the Commission manages to persuade North Korea to open itself up to visits by U.N. human rights experts and other international observers, this would be a significant accomplishment. I urge all members of the United Nations to work towards this goal and urge my colleagues to support this Resolution.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
ACADIANA VETERAN LESTER J.
GUIDRY

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, our community lost a dedicated servant on February 20, 2003. Lester J. Guidry, Commander of American Legion Post 69, lost his battle with cancer. Mr. Guidry was a tireless advocate for Acadiana's Veterans, often serving as their voice in the community.

Mr. Guidry was a veteran of the Korean War, serving with the 25th Infantry Division, 35th Regiment, 1st Battalion, Able Company. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained in battle in 1951. Back on the home front, Mr. Guidry became a mountaineering instructor with the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. For 25 years, he taught our young cadets the specifics of winter survival, mountaineering safety and awareness.

Upon his return home to Acadiana, Mr. Guidry became a project coordinator working on behalf of Korean War Veterans. He was tireless in his efforts to help these veterans secure the service medals and accolades they were due.

I knew Lester Guidry well. He constantly interacted with my office on behalf of our local veterans, insuring that cases were tended to and information was located. In 2002, he visited with me in Washington, DC during his trip to retrieve pieces of the damaged Pentagon for display at memorials across Acadiana.

Mr. Guidry's passion for life and service was both inspirational and contagious. He was persistent in his task, making service to our local veterans and their memory his mission in life. I believe he accomplished his mission.

He fought for the ideals he believed in until his final days. He labored to remind of us that "freedom is never free," and that service to country should be recognized and never forgotten. He was an example of patriotism for our community, he touched countless lives in our area and across the country, and he will be sorely missed.

IN HONOR OF NORA RAZON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Nora Razon, as she is named a San Mateo County Young Woman of Excellence.

Nora Razon is a young woman of tremendous insight and dedication. She took initiative in conceiving of and founding her own organization at Carlmont High School, Chicanas Healing Injustice, Sexism, Prejudice and Animosity (C.H.I.S.P.A.). This organization empowers Latino youth through participation in school and extracurricular activities dealing with the healing of injustice and animosity within and towards the Latino community. Under her direction, C.H.I.S.P.A. has evolved into one of the most successful and well-attended clubs at Carlmont High School.

Nora Razon's leadership has been likewise valuable in East Palo Alto's College Track, a non-profit organization which assists motivated young people from socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods to recognize their full potential and to attend a four-year university of their choosing. She has been credited with helping turn College Track "from a good idea into a successful entity."

Nora Razon is a senior leader in the East Palo Alto chapter of Youth United for Community Action and an active four-year participant in Youth Community Service. She is the Youth Representative on the San Mateo County Commission on Aging, a member of the Student Council, and a mentor to her peers through Carlmont's SOS Program designed to mediate conflicts that arise within the student body.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Nora Razon as she is named a San Mateo County Young Woman of Excellence.

THE CHILD HEALTHCARE CRISIS
RELIEF ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has been blessed for more than two centuries. At no time in the history of mankind has a society prospered like ours has. Through an industrious spirit, a deep sense of entrepreneurship, and a land teeming with natural resources and human talent, we have created a nation that is the dream of those in the world who lack our good fortune. We have led the world in the area of biotechnology and medical research for almost an entire century. There is no place else on Earth where people flock by the thousands to obtain the best that the arts and sciences of medicine have to offer.

With that said, there has been, however, a well kept secret regarding our nation's healthcare system, which was only recently brought to light by former United States Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher. In his landmark 1999 report, Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General, Dr. Satcher describes the crisis faced by our Nation's children who suffer from mental illness. According to this report, one out of every five children in America suffers from a diagnosable mental disorder, yet only one-third of them receive mental healthcare treatment.

Part of the reason for this alarming statistic is that mental health services specific to children are in very short supply. I hear time and time again the frustrations of pediatricians who cannot find available mental healthcare professionals for their patients who require psychological evaluations. There are many parents in our nation who are forced to relinquish custody of their disturbed children because outpatient psychiatric services are either not available or the wait for an appointment is weeks to months away. In my own state of Rhode Island, a physician affiliated with a leading psychiatric children's hospital told me recently that on any given day, up to one-third of the hospitalized youth could be home if only outpatient services were available.